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FEBRUARY 1995

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[REDACTED]  
 FOLLOWING A MEETING BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT PEACE COMMISSION (COPAZ) AND A FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO EL SALVADOR, WHO IS IN GUATEMALA CITY AND HAS INTRODUCED HIMSELF AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF BAMACA'S WIFE, U.S. CITIZEN JENNIFER (( HARBURY)). [REDACTED] MEMBERS OF COPAZ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] PERSUADED THE PRESIDENT THAT THERE WAS A CERTAIN LACK OF SERIOUSNESS AND DETERMINATION IN THE INVESTIGATION, TO DATE, INTO BAMACA'S DEATH. THE PRESIDENT AGREED TO START A NEW INVESTIGATION.

[REDACTED] PROSECUTOR GENERAL AND PUBLIC MINISTER RAMSES (( CUESTAS)) GOMEZ TO CONDUCT A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE DEATH OF BAMACA. THERE ARE ALSO PLANS TO [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] TAKE DECLARATIONS FROM TWO FORMER ORPA INSURGENTS WHO ARE PRESENTLY ABROAD, BUT WHO TESTIFIED THEY SAW BAMACA IN AN ARMY CLANDESTINE JAIL. THEIR DECLARATIONS AND DECLARATIONS MADE BY HARBURY WOULD BE USED IN THE INVESTIGATION. [REDACTED] THE ADMINISTRATION FULLY INTENDS TO CONDUCT A SERIOUS AND THOROUGH INVESTIGATION.

[REDACTED] COPAZ MEMBERS ASKED THE FORMER AMBASSADOR TO PRESS THE URNG FOR AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATHS OF GUATEMALAN SOLDIERS IN EXCHANGE FOR THE COOPERATION IN THE BAMACA CASE. THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CITED THE DISAPPEARANCE OF GUATEMALAN LIEUTENANT FNU (( SALAME)), WHO WAS TAKEN BY A URNG COLUMN CIRCA 1993 AND NOT SEEN FROM AGAIN, AND THE ASSASSINATION AND DISFIGUREMENT OF A GUATEMALAN SOLDIER, WHO HAD "EGP" CARVED IN HIS BACK WITH A KNIFE. (GUATEMALA CITY FIELD COMMENT: THESE ARE THE INITIALS OF THE GUERRILLA ARMY OF THE POOR, A FACTION OF THE URNG.)

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[REDACTED] THERE ARE A VARIETY OF REASONS WHY THE CASE HAS BEEN HAMPERED TO DATE. THERE IS RESENTMENT AND INCOMPREHENSION IN GUATEMALA OVER THE LEVEL OF INTERNATIONAL INTEREST RAISED BY THE DISAPPEARANCE OF SOMEONE GUATEMALANS PERCEIVE WAS A TERRORIST. IN ADDITION, THERE IS RESISTANCE FROM THE MILITARY TO AN INVESTIGATION, AND A SUSPICION THAT THE CASE HAS BEEN MANIPULATED BY THE URNG. FINALLY, THERE IS A BASIC DISAGREEMENT OVER HOW A PROPER INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE CONDUCTED, SINCE MANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BELIEVE THE CASE SHOULD BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE "COMMISSION OF HISTORICAL CLARIFICATION" ONCE A PEACE AGREEMENT IS SIGNED. ALTHOUGH SOME OF THESE FACTORS STILL EXIST, [REDACTED] THERE IS NOW A GENERAL BELIEF THAT A PROPER INVESTIGATION IS ESSENTIAL IF GOOD RELATIONS ARE TO BE MAINTAINED WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND GUATEMALA'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE IS NOT TO SUFFER FURTHER DETERIORATION.

[REDACTED] THE VISIT OF THE FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR HAD CAUSED A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF RESENTMENT. CIVILIAN AND MILITARY OFFICIALS WHO AGREED TO RECEIVE HIM WERE MISTAKENLY LED TO BELIEVE HE WAS VISITING IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY.

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